

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01669 021342Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 EUR-12 AID-05 OMB-01

/096 W

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R 021232Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599

INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: NKOMO PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IN JULY 1 PRESS CONFERENCE ZAPU/PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) HEAD JOSHUA NKOMO REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT PF AHD COME TO SUMMIT TO SEEK AID TO PROSECUTE WAR AND THAT TIME FOR TALK WAS OVER. HE SCORED MUZOREWA, IGNORED REPORTED DIFFICULTIES WITH MUGABE, TOOK HARD LINE ON ISSUE OF UNITY OF LIBERATION FRONTS AND STATED PURPOSE OF US/UK INITIATIVES WAS TO INSTALL PUPPET REGIME IN ZIMBABWE. END SUMMARY.

1. PATRIOTIC FRON AND ZAPU LEADER, "COMRADE BROTHER" JOSHUA NKOMO, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 1 AT OAU CONFERENCE HALL. IN PREAPARED RELEASE, PF STATED (A) FRONT HAD INTENSIFIED STRUGGLE (B) HUNDREDS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT CADRE ARRESTED IN PAST FEW DAYS IN RHODESIA FOR RECRUITING ACTIVITIES AND LINKS WITH GUERRILLAS (C) FRONT ATTENDING SUMMIT TO MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MILITARY HARDWARE, AS WELL AS FOR FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE AND (D) FRONT'S POSITION ON ANGLO AMERICAN EFFORTS IS THAT  
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01669 021342Z

ANY SOLUTION MUST BE IN CONTEXT OF WAR RAGING IN ZIMBABWE TODAY AND POWER MUST BE TRANSFERRED IN TOT WITHOUT HESITATION OR RESERVATION TOPPEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

2. NKOMO, WEARING DELEGATE'S BADGE, THEN PROCEEDED TO QUESTION PERIOD BEST CHARACTERIZED AS RAMBLING, EMOTIONAL AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY. DESPITE PRESS

INSISTANCE, NKOMO REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ANY SPLIT WITH ROBERT MUGABE AND CHARACTERIZED REPORTS OF MUGABE'S ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS IN PEKING AS DISTORTIONS CREATED BY WESTERN PRESS WHICH DELIBERATELY TRYING TO SPLIT PATRIOTIC FRONT. NKOMO STATED HE BELIEVE IN MUGABE, AND IT THEREFORE UNNECESSARY TO CHECK OUT REPORTS FROM PEKING.

3. ON MUZOREWA, NKOMO SPOKE OF "CLERICAL LIAR" AND CHARACTERIZED MUZOREWA'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH OAU COMMISSION ON INQUIRY AS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT OAU FROM ISSUE OF CONDUCTING WAR IN ZIMBABWE. STATING THAT MUZOREWA IS NOT FACTOR IN ZIMBABWE EQUATION, NKOMO DREW ANALOGY OF MAN FIGHTING LION AND LOUSE. PATRIOTIC FRONT CONCENTRATING ON LION (SMITH REGIME) AND IGNORING LOUSE.

4. ON SOVIETS, NKOMO STATED FACT THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT RECEIVING ARMS FROM SOVIETS DID NOT MEAN FRONT WAS COMMUNIST, AND DREW FAULTY ANALOGY THAT WEST SHOULD NOT FORGET WEAPONS IT RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS DURING 1939-45 WAR. FRONT ACCEPTING ARMS FROM SOVIETS SINCE SOVIETS WILLING TO PROVIDE THEM WHILE WEST REFUSED TO DO SO.

5. NKOMO GENERALLY SCORED WEST, PARTICULARLY UK, AND BELITTLED EFFORTS OF DR OWEN. UK FONSEC AND SMITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIBREV 01669 021342Z

ACCUSED OF FABRICATING BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS, PURPOSE OF WHICH HE ALLEGED WAS MERELY TO CREATE PUPPET REGIMES IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA. AFTER PUPPET REGIMES ESTABLISHED, HE CONTINUED, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA WOULD BE ATTACKED, THEN REST OF CONTINENT. ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS SCORED BY NKOMO AS ATTEMPTS TO UNNERMINE FRONT'S EFFORTS TO DEFEAT SMITH. AFTER BREAKDOWN AT GENEVA, FRONT HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT INTENDED FIGHT TO END.

6. ON QUESTION OF UNITY OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, NKOMO REITERATED THAT PROBLEM HAD TO BE VIEWED IN WAR CONTEXT. UNITY WAS NOT NECESSARILY STRENGTH, PARTICULARLY IF UNITY MEANT UNITING WITH THOSE WHO WOULD WEAKEN STRUGGLE. PATRIOTIC FRONT BELIEVED IN MULTIPLICITY OF PARTIES BUT ONLY ONE ARMY. HE STATED MUZOREWA HAD OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS, AND STATED FRONT DID NOT BELIEVE IN MULTIPLICITY OF ORGANIZATIONS.

7. ON TRANSITION TO POWER, NKOMO MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD PROVIDE NECESSARY FORCES DURING ANY TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. FRONT WAS NOT GOING TO TURN OVER POWER TO SOMEONE ELSE, HE SAID, AND WAS

FIGHTING TO TAKE OVER POWER.

8. ON FUTURE ZIMBABWE STATE, NKOMO STATED DECISIONS  
RE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM (INCLUDING MEMBER  
OF POLITICAL PARTIES) WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED  
BY PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AFTER  
VICTORY. STATUS OF WHITE RHODESIANS, NKOMO SAID  
THOSE WHO HAD MADE ZIMBABWE THEIR HOME WOULD HAVE EQUAL  
POSITION. FRONT WAS NOT REACIST, AND RACISM OF UK SHOULD  
NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO FRONT.

9. COMMENT: NKOMO'S COMMENTS ON RETURN FROM EASTERN  
EUROPEAN TRIP AND ON EVE OF NEW BRITISH EFFORT  
NOT ENCOURAGING. STEIGMAN  
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PAGE 04 LIBREV 01669 021342Z

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## Message Attributes

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